

PATENT**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [1041] with the following amended paragraph:

[1041] The 21 bits of input data 402, comprising the content of control message, are provided into block 404. The block 404 scrambles the input data 402 by a 21-bit sequence, provided by a sequence generator 422. The sequence generator 422 can comprise e.g., a hash function, a linear function, or any other means known to one skilled in the art, which provides a 21 bit long pseudo-random sequence in response to the input. In one embodiment, the block 404 performs scrambling by a bit-wise exclusive-OR of the input data 402 with the sequence 422. The scrambled sequence; therefore, comprises 21 bit and is provided to block 406. The block 406 concatenates the scrambled sequence with 8 error detection encoder bits in block 406. The bit stream is further concatenated with 8 encoder tail bits in block 408, and encoded in block 410. In one embodiment, the encoder is a convolutional encoder, well known in the art, with constraint length 9 and rate 1/2, 1/3, or 1/4. Depending on the slot-format a particular encoding rate is selected, i.e., 1/2 rate for the one-slot format, 1/3 rate for the two-slot format, and 1/4 rate for the four-slot format. The encoded symbols are provided to block 412, which adjusts length of the encoded symbols for further processing by puncturing/repeating some symbols to generate 48 symbols for the one-slot format, 96 symbols for the two-slot format, and 192 symbols for four-slot format control message. The remaining symbols are provided to a block interleaver 414. The interleaved symbols are then provided to a quadrature-phase shift keying (QPSK) modulator 416. The In-phase (I) and quadrature-phase (Q) outputs of the QPSK modulator 416 are spreaded by a Walsh code (W) in spreaders 418(I) and 418(Q) and provided to a transmitter (not shown).

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Please replace paragraph [1043] with the following amended paragraph:

At time t_1 , the base station determines that a data to a mobile station will be scheduled for transmission next, and another control message ~~404~~ 504 is to be sent. Taking into an account processing time necessary to compose the control message **504** and the F-PDCH, the base station determines that the control message can be sent at time t_2 . The base station then determines the number of slots between the times t_1 and t_2 and calculates the slot index of the first slot **506(1)** of the message **504**.